

7-11 St John Street Oxford



Archaeological Watching Brief Report

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7-11 St John Street, Oxford

Archaeological Watching Brief

Written by Robin Bashford

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Summary

Between July and August 2014, Oxford Archaeology (OA) undertook an archaeological watching brief at 7-11 St John Street, Oxford (SP 510 066). The watching brief revealed the sand and gravel of the second (Summertown-Radley) gravel terrace which was overlain by a post-glacial loessic subsoil. The subsoil and gravel had been truncated by a steep-sided feature which was only partially revealed within the trench for a new light-well to the rear of number 11. The composition of the fill was predominantly re-deposited loess, which is characteristic of pre-historic and late Saxon features excavated elsewhere within the city. A number of Bronze Age ring ditches have been excavated in the immediate vicinity of the site, and it is feasible that this feature represents one such. However, no dating evidence was recovered and the shape of the feature in plan was uncertain. Additionally, a possible pit – also undated – was revealed within the same trench.

The loess and the fills of the features were overlain by a homogeneous, humic deposit which is likely to represent a buried topsoil. This deposit and the fill of the steep-sided feature had been truncated by a stone-lined, square-cut pit, the fills of which produced a large quantity of mid-late 19th century artefactual material. It is likely that this represents a stone-lined cess pit to the rear of number 11, which was backfilled in the 1870s following the introduction of mains sewerage into the city.



1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

- 1.1.1 Oxford Archaeology (OA), were commissioned by Robinson Thorne Architects on behalf of St John's College, Oxford to undertake a watching brief at the site of a redevelopment project at 7-11 St John Street, Oxford.
- 1.1.2 The work was undertaken as a condition of Planning Permission (planning ref: 13/00314/FUL and 13/00315/LBC). A written scheme of investigation (WSI) was produced which detailed how OA would implement the Local Authority's requirements for work necessary to discharge the planning condition.
- 1.1.3 All work was undertaken in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework (2010).

1.2 Geology and topography

- 1.2.1 The site is located to the north-west of the centre of Oxford centred on SP 510 066 at c. 64m OD. It is bounded on the west by St John Street and on the south by Pusey Place.
- 1.2.2 The area of proposed development currently comprises a row of five Grade II listed Late Regency town houses and enclosed gardens.
- 1.2.3 The geology of the area consists of Pleistocene terrace gravels overlying Oxford Clay deposits (Geological Survey of Great Britain, sheet 236).

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 The following section is reproduced from the WSI and provides a summary of the archaeological and historical background of the site and the local environs including previous excavated evidence. Full references can be found in that document.

Prehistoric

- 1.3.2 A Neolithic-Early Bronze Age ring-ditch was excavated at the Sackler library site to the south of Pusey Lane within the walled precinct of the 12th century Royal Palace of Beaumont; subsequently the Carmelite Friary. This was extensively excavated previously (Poore and Wilkinson 2001). A possible Neolithic pit was excavated at Mansfield College to the northeast of the site (Booth and Hayden 2000). Evidence of Bronze Age burial activity has been recorded elsewhere within Oxford at University Parks, to the northeast, and St Michael's Street to the south (Parkinson et al 1996); and possibly at Logic Lane to the southeast (Radcliffe 1962).
- 1.3.3 Neolithic and Bronze Age activity was recorded to the northeast of the site during excavations carried out by Oxford Archaeology in 2001 on the site of the Chemistry Research Laboratory on South Parks Road (Bradley et al 2005). A large boundary ditch was recorded, extending east to west across the northern boundary of the site, which appears to have been deliberately backfilled. Two pits were also identified. The fills produced artefactual evidence in the form of flint, Neolithic or Bronze Age pottery and fragments of fired clay. The fills also contained animal bone and hazelnut shell.
- 1.3.4 To the southeast of the site a probable flint arrowhead dating to the late Neolithic or Bronze Age was recovered during excavations by Oxford Archaeology at the Ashmolean museum during construction of the extension between 2006 and 2007 (Teague unpublished).



- 1.3.5 Three large ring ditches were recorded to the north-west of the site during the evaluation, by Museum of London Archaeology (MoLA), of the Radcliffe Observatory site (MoLA 2009). These probably represented the truncated remains of Bronze Age barrows although dating was difficult as the fills contained pottery of varying date including Iron Age, Roman and early Saxon. Further ditches and postholes may be associated with these ring ditches.
- 1.3.6 An early Bronze Age ditch was identified to the north-east of the site during excavations by Thames Valley Archaeological Services (TVAS) on the Kendrew Quadrangle, St John's College in 2008 (<http://www.tvas.co.uk/news/oxford.html>). This contained Bronze Age pottery in its lower fills and Roman period pottery in the upper fills.

Roman

- 1.3.7 Although no direct evidence of Roman settlement has been recorded in the vicinity of the site the possibility of settlement nearby may be evidenced by the recovery of a quern stone c. 70m to the north-west on St John Street (Manning and Leeds 1921). Further evidence for settlement was recorded in the form of ditched enclosures and field systems at Radcliffe Science Library and Mansfield College, both to the north-east (Booth and Hayden 2000).
- 1.3.8 Roman period activity was illustrated by the results of the 2001 excavation on the site of the Chemistry Research Laboratory (Bradley et al 2005). A series of ditches, gullies and pits provide evidence of multi-phased land enclosure and related activity dating from the 2nd to the 4th centuries AD. Pottery recovered from the 2nd century suggests domestic activity occurred in the vicinity. One group of inter-cutting pits from the 3rd to 4th centuries produced pottery and, in one instance, the articulated remains of a sheep. Further inter-cutting pits also produced pottery dating to the same period. Decapitated human remains were identified within an inhumation cut into a 2nd-3rd century ditch (Bradley et al 2005).
- 1.3.9 The excavations on the site of the Ashmolean extension resulted in the recovery of three Roman coins and a small number of Roman dated pottery sherds (Teague unpublished).

Anglo-Saxon

- 1.3.10 Early and middle Saxon evidence is rare in the vicinity of the site although four sherds of middle Saxon Ipswich Ware were recovered during the excavations on the Beaumont Palace site to the south (Poore and Wilkinson 2001). Further incidental finds include a bracteate (Manning and Leeds 1921) and bone heddle stick, of probable Saxon date (Anon. 1938) were recorded from the vicinity of the site of the Radcliffe Infirmary c. 450m to the north.
- 1.3.11 Anglo-Saxon activity was further noted during excavations at the site of the Ashmolean Museum extension where a small assemblage of middle Saxon Ipswich Ware and a small number of undecorated sherds dating to the early and middle Saxon periods were recorded (Teague unpublished). In addition a pair of decorated tweezers dating to the early-mid Saxon periods was recovered. Very little dating to the later Saxon period was recovered during this work but a sherd of St Neot's Ware and a sherd of Stamford Ware were recovered, albeit from later features.
- 1.3.12 Evidence for a dispersed Saxon settlement was also observed in the form of three possible sunken-floored buildings recorded during the MoLA evaluation of the Radcliffe Observatory site (MoLA 2009). One of these portrayed evidence of fire damage. The

extent and nature of the settlement remains unclear but other features were observed including a ditch, pit and a possible well.

- 1.3.13 Excavations carried out by TVAS at St John's College (<http://www.tvas.co.uk/news/oxford.html>) revealed a mass grave of over twenty individuals, thought to be male, in the area of the Kendrew Quadrangle. It was not suggestive of either an organised cemetery or of deposited disarticulated remains. Although dating is uncertain the stratigraphic position of the grave suggests it postdates the Bronze Age features and pre-dates the medieval layers.

Medieval

- 1.3.14 The Royal Palace was originally constructed c. 1132 by Henry I (Colvin et al 1963) with later additions between 1237-1270. By the late 13th century it ceased to be used as a royal palace and the last recorded repairs at the king's expense were made in 1289 with the palace finally being granted to the White Friars in 1318 by Edward II (Crossley 1979). Its use as a Carmelite friary continued until the dissolution of the monasteries in 1538 by which time it was in a state of ruin (Cooper 1979). The friary was sold to St John's College in 1560 by which point the majority of buildings had been demolished (Turner 1880). Further evidence of Medieval activity was recorded during the excavations at Beaumont Palace. These comprised 34 pits, associated with tree planting, and three ditches or gullies. Evidence for the construction and robbing of two substantial masonry structures was also recorded at this site (Poore and Wilkinson 2001). An E-W oriented ditch containing medieval pottery was revealed during archaeological evaluations on the Radcliffe Observatory site (MoLA 2009) suggesting activity dating to the 13th to 15th centuries.
- 1.3.15 Between 2006 and 2007 excavations at the site of the Ashmolean extension revealed an array of features relating to the use and development of the area (Teague unpublished). A number of ditches illustrated the organisation of the land from the 11th century onwards. Evidence for quarrying was revealed through large pits with a large number of smaller pits being used for the deposition of rubbish; at least three wells were identified one of which contained a 12th century Scottish silver halfpenny and contemporary pottery in its earliest excavated fill. In addition evidence for food preparation was recovered from rubbish and cess pits. Evidence for masonry structures was recovered in the form of fragments of limestone window frames and a fragment of a limestone door jamb.
- 1.3.16 The Ashmolean excavations also revealed an increase in both population and prosperity during the later Medieval period from the 16th to the 18th century (Teague unpublished). Very little pottery was recovered from the few pits revealed. However a large quantity of roofing tile fragments were recovered as were a coin and a jetton dating to between the 14th -15th centuries. The rear of properties fronting St Giles were increasingly subdivided during this period illustrating the increased pressure for living space. Food waste recovered illustrates a diet which included various birds including turkey.
- 1.3.17 In 2008, excavations at the Kendrew Quadrangle revealed hearths, ovens, wells, cess pits, rubbish pits and boundary ditches dated through pottery to the 12th century (<http://www.tvas.co.uk/news/oxford.html>).

Post-medieval

- 1.3.18 The current buildings at 7-11 St Johns St were constructed by St John's College between 1820 and 1860. A number of garden features dating to this phase of use were revealed during machine excavations at the nearby Beaumont Palace site. These

consisted of garden walls constructed of brick upon limestone rubble foundations (Poore and Wilkinson 2001). Excavations at the Chemistry Research Laboratory provided evidence of the Civil War defence ditch as shown on Loggan's map of 1675 (Bradley et al 2005). This appears to form part of the outer defensive earthworks and evidence implies a bank existed to the south of the ditch. Further horticultural and agricultural activity was evidenced by the observation of tree throws and planting features recorded during the 2009 evaluation of the Radcliffe Observatory site (MoLA 2009). A number of quarry pits evidenced further activity at this time. Evidence for quarrying was also recorded during evaluations carried out on the Kendrew Quadrangle of St John's College (Teague and Hillier, 2006). In addition, the remains of the 18th century boundary between the Observatory and the Radcliffe Infirmary was identified as were the remains of structures associated with the Infirmary including a vaulted cellar and a possible barrel-vaulted storage structure (MoLA 2009). Also recovered during these evaluations were redeposited human remains representing a minimum of four individuals possibly disturbed during earlier construction work on the site of the cemetery for the Radcliffe Infirmary.

- 1.3.19 A variety of artefactual evidence from the Ashmolean extension was recovered relating to this phase including musket balls and a powder holder cover dating to the Civil War. Fishing net weights and fish remains were also recovered as were residual fragments of window glass and a glass urinal (Teague unpublished). During the 17th and 18th centuries a number of cellared buildings were constructed indicating an increased need for storage supporting previous evidence (above) for increased population at this time. Some evidence for alcohol consumption was recorded with a fragment of stoneware tavern mug bearing a Queen Anne assay stamp and glass associated with wine consumption being recovered. Brewing may also be evidenced through the recovery of oast or malting tiles.
- 1.3.20 Building foundations and associated yard and floor surfaces were revealed during excavations by TVAS in St John's College (<http://www.tvas.co.uk/news/oxford.html>). These were reported to have related to 17th century maps of the city.

2 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

General

2.1.1 The aims of the watching brief as defined in the WSI were to:

- preserve by record any archaeological deposits, structures or features encountered during the course of any ground intrusions;
- seek to establish the extent, nature and date of any archaeological deposits, structures or features encountered within the scope of the ground intrusion;
- secure the analysis, conservation and long-term storage of any artefactual and/or ecofactual material recovered from the site;
- disseminate results through the production of a unpublished client (grey literature) report.

Specific aims and objectives

2.1.2 The specific aims and objectives of the watching brief were to identify and record significant deposits with regard to:

- Early Bronze Age remains;
- medieval remains associated with the Royal Palace;
- medieval or post-medieval remains associated with the Carmelite Friary;
- remains dating to any post-Dissolution use of the site;
- to assess the potential for, and nature of, unexpected discoveries and detail contingency arrangements for preservation or recording.

2.2 Methodology

2.2.1 The project involved the reconfiguration of the extant rear extensions to allow alteration of the current roof structures. It also allowed for the insertion of new doors and windows. External landscaping was also undertaken.

2.2.2 A detailed watching brief was carried out during any ground breaking operations which and focussed on the remodelling of the rear extensions, including: floor reduction within the existing extension to Number 9; a trench for a new light well to the rear of Number 7, and a trench for a new basement entrance to the rear of Number 11 (see Fig. 2).

3 RESULTS

3.1 Floor reduction within extension to Number 9

- 3.1.1 Following the removal of the existing suspended wooden floor, an area approximately 5m x 2m was reduced by 0.35m within the existing extension to Number 9 (See Fig. 2, Area B).
- 3.1.2 The general reduction was through a deposit of pale grey sandy silt with concentrations of lime mortar and brick rubble throughout. The excavation revealed a brick wall approximately 0.3m to the east of the stone footing of the original rear wall of Number 9 with offcuts of timber overlain by slate covering a 2m deep void between the two structures. It is possible that this represents a light-well at the rear of the original property which has become redundant following the addition of the extension.

3.2 Trench for light-well to rear of Number 7

- 3.2.1 An area approximately 1.5m² and 1m deep was excavated for the construction of a new light-well to the rear of Number 7 (see Fig. 2, Area C).
- 3.2.2 The deposit through which the new light well was cut comprised a mixed layer with stone and ceramic building material (CBM) throughout. It seems likely that this deposit is associated with the construction of Number 7 in the early 19th century. The south-west corner of the trench had been truncated by the insertion of ceramic drains.

3.3 Trench for new basement entrance to rear of Number 11

- 3.3.1 Following the demolition of the early 20th century brick and timber framed extension to the rear of Number 11, an area 5m x 1.5m and in excess of 2m deep was excavated to create a new entrance to the basement at the rear of Number 11 (see Fig. 2, Area A).
- 3.3.2 Natural gravel (106) was encountered at c0.9m below existing ground level (bgl) and was overlain by a c0.4m thick layer of mid reddish brown clayey silt (103). The interface between this deposit and the underlying gravel was slightly undulating, perhaps suggesting the base of a feature. However, it is more likely that this represents the natural accumulation of post-glacial loess known to overlay the terrace gravel.
- 3.3.3 A steep-sided feature (104) appeared to truncate this deposit. The shape of this feature in plan was uncertain as it was only partially revealed within the trench, and had been heavily truncated by the foundations of Number 11 and a stone-lined pit (see below). The composition of the fill (105) was predominantly a re-deposition of the loess, and no finds were recovered.
- 3.3.4 A feature (109) in the west facing section was also of uncertain date and shape in plan, although may have represented a pit.
- 3.3.5 The loess and the fills of these features were overlain by a c0.4m thick layer of homogeneous dark brownish grey silty sand with a moderate amount of well sorted gravel pebbles and occasional charcoal flecks (102). It is likely that this is a buried topsoil deposit.
- 3.3.6 This deposit – together with the fill of the steep-sided feature and the loess and gravel - had been truncated by a stone-lined pit (113) in the southern end of the trench. The mixed fill (114) of this feature produced a large quantity of late 19th century artefactual material.
- 3.3.7 The buried soil and the stone-lined feature were directly overlain by modern building debris probably associated with the recently demolished extension.



4 FINDS SUMMARY

4.1 Pottery by John Cotter

Introduction and methodology

4.1.1 A total of 16 sherds of pottery weighing 3000g was recovered from a single context (114), the backfill of a 19th-century stone-lined cess pit (113). The excavator has suggested this was backfilled during the 1870s following the introduction of mains sewerage into the city. The pottery is all of 19th-century date. As most of the vessels recovered are complete and in unusually good condition a reasonably detailed catalogue of the assemblage has been recorded on an Excel spreadsheet (Appendix B). In the catalogue each vessel (or pot/lid unit) has been assigned a separate catalogue entry; other fields record context, fabric code, spot-date, number of sherds and weight. Vessel forms, dimensions, condition and any decoration or makers' marks present are described in an extended comments field. As far as possible vessels were recorded in bag group order - based on the bags they came in. Types present are summarised below and detailed in the spreadsheet. Post-medieval pottery fabric codes used are those of the Museum of London (LAARC 2007).

Date and nature of the assemblage

4.1.2 The fourteen catalogued items comprise eleven complete vessels (or pot/lid units) and three broken vessels or fragments. Most of these are in refined white earthenwares from the Staffordshire or Midlands potteries. Plain examples of the latter are coded REFW and the transfer-printed and decorated examples coded TPW. The other vessels are in English stonewares - either with a brown salt glaze (ENGS) or a transparent Bristol-type glaze (ENGS BRST) which was invented in 1835. Collectively the date of the assemblage probably falls between c 1850-1900 and perhaps in the second half of this range. Nothing in the assemblage dates before c 1820 at the earliest (the ENGS ink bottles) and it probably all dates after c 1840/50.

4.1.3 The three incomplete vessels in transfer-printed ware (TPW) including two jug rims and a near-complete and very elaborate small ornamental vase in the style of Japanese Satsuma porcelain with moulded details, gilding and a false Chinese or Japanese-style seal mark in blue transfer printing on the underside of the vessel. The two jugs could have served as 'tablewares' but one is probably from a large pitcher used for hand-washing etc. The other eleven vessels are all 'kitchenwares' or types of storage vessel. There are six items in plain whiteware (REFW) including four squat cylindrical ointment or paste pot bases with fitting slightly domed lids, a separate domed lid (possibly from one of the four bases) and a taller plain cylindrical preserve jar (eg for jam/marmalade) which would probably have had a tie-down lid of paper or textile. Three of the ointment/paste pot bases have small impressed marks on the underside listing capacities in ounces; two of these include the name 'MAW', probably for the Maws company of Ironbridge, Shropshire (founded 1850), which made pottery containers and tiles. The five stoneware vessels - all cylindrical ink bottles of different sizes - are plain and unmarked in any way. These include two spouted ink bottles in a cream stoneware (ENGS BRST) and three ink bottles in brown salt-glazed stoneware (ENGS). These were probably made at one or other of the several London stoneware potteries or one of the several Midlands stoneware potteries.

Recommendations

4.1.4 The condition of the pottery is remarkably good - although any paper labels they may originally have had have not survived. As an example of an assemblage of mainly



complete storage vessels dating from the second half of the 19th century it is recommended they should be preserved and kept together. Otherwise no further work is recommended.

4.2 Glass by Ian Scott

- 4.2.1 There were 11 pieces of glass from a single context (114). The glass included 7 complete bottles (Cat. Nos. i-vii). The remaining four pieces comprised most of a stemmed glass (Cat. No. viii), and a small trumpet-shaped vase (Cat. No. ix), part of the tulip-shaped bowl of a vessel decorated with coloured trails (Cat. No. x) and the base of a vessel of uncertain form in opaque white glass (Cat. No. xi). Broadly the glass assemblage is of 19th-century date but within the assemblage there are items which are more closely datable. The stemmed wine glass (Cat. No. viii) probably dates to the late 18th or early part of the 19th century; on the other had the Pinaud perfume bottle (Cat. No. ii) cannot date from before 1830 at the very earliest, when the company was found, and is probably somewhat later in date.
- 4.2.2 The small vase (Cat. No. ix) has been acid-etched on its exterior and this form of decoration was very popular from the later 19th century. The small wine or beer bottle embossed 'R Deacon London' can be dated to the mid to late 19th century. However here is no record of Richard Deacon trading as a bottle merchant in the Post Office London Directory 1841, but R Deacon is recorded as a 'wine cooper & bottle merchant Gt Scotland yard & 17 Billiter street Fenchurch street' in 1852 (Post Office London Directory 1852, (small edition), p. 698). 'R. Deacon & Co' are listed as bottle manufacturers or dealers, in 1882 at The Arches, Villiers street (Post Office London Directory 1882, p. 1456) and later in 1899 as bottle merchants in Philpot Lane off Fenchurch Street in 1899 (Post Office London Directory 1899, p. 651).
- 4.2.3 It is likely that the glass assemblage was deposited in the late 19th century but that it includes some older material. The fact that so much of the glass is intact or almost intact suggests that a degree of care was taken in the burial or disposal of the assemblage.
- (i) Small wine bottle or beer bottle made in a three-piece 'Ricketts' mould with applied and hand-finished rim. Embossed 'R. DEACON LONDON' on base. Complete. Dark olive green metal. Ht: 232mm; D: 68mm. R Deacon & Co. were the bottle merchants in London in the latter part of the 19th century.
 - (ii) Perfume bottle. Squat cylindrical bottle with almost horizontal shoulders and tall straight neck with rounded rim. Probably made in a three-piece mould, possibly with hand finished rim, but very slight evidence of mould lines on body. Embossed 'ED. PINAUD PARIS' around an open embossed circle, which may have had a paper label. Complete. Colourless metal. Ht: 100mm; D: 48mm. Edouard Pinaud (b. 1810, d. 1868) was a famous 'maitre parfumeur'. His perfume business was established in 1930 and continues today. The bottle could be later 19th- or early 20th-century date.
 - (iii) Small bottle, body almost square with concave chamfers. Made in a two-piece mould with hand finished rim. The rim has been folded over and flattened against the neck. Complete. Colourless metal. Ht: 120mm; W: 34mm. Possibly a perfume bottle? Probably 19th century in date.
 - (iv) Small cylindrical bottle, made in a three-piece 'Ricketts type' mould with hand finished horizontal rim. Complete. Colourless metal. Ht: 96mm; D: 35mm. Possibly used as a perfume or toilet water bottle? Probably mid to late 19th century.



- (v) Squat bottle with oval section body, almost horizontal shoulders and quite short wide neck. The rim is hand finished and has been folded over and flattened against the neck. Complete. Colourless metal. Ht: 84mm; W: 56mm. Late 19th- or early 20th-century?
- (vi) Small bottle, with oval section body and rounded shoulders, moulded in two-piece mould with base piece. The neck and rim are moulded, with an internal seating. The top of the rim appears to have been ground. Complete. Colourless metal. Ht: 118mm; W: 48mm. Perfume or medicine bottle? Late 19th- or early 20th-century in date.
- (vii) Small bottle, with oval section body and rounded shoulders, moulded in two-piece mould with base piece, The neck is moulded but the rim is hand finished, and has an internal seating. Complete. Blue metal with hint of grey. Ht: 116mm; W: 44mm. Medicine bottle? Late 19th- or early 20th-century.
- (viii) Stemmed glass with narrow conical bowl with 7 facets leading into a facet cut drawn stem now largely missing. Colourless metal. Ht: 129mm; D: 60mm. Could be 18th- or 19th-century in date.
- (ix) Small vase with trumpet shaped mount above a small bulbous base, original with pedestal base, now missing. The rim is shaped probably by grinding. The outer surface has been acid-etched to give a matt finish. The rim edge was painted with gold enamel, and four decorative bands of gold enamel clearly visible on the exterior of the vessel. Colourless metal. Ht: 140mm; D: 80mm. Very late 19th- or 20th-century.
- (x) Stemmed vessel or glass with tulip shaped bowl. A large part of the, bowl survives. in colourless metal with alternate white and coloured trails. There are four different coloured trails: pink, cyan, light green and cobalt blue. The vessel is a cased vessel, that is made from two layers, the thinner inner colourless layer with applied coloured trails was blown into an outer colourless layer to form the body. Ht extant: 93mm; W: 72mm. Probably of 19th- or 20th-century date.
- (xi) Base of vessel possibly pushed up pedestal base with pontil mark, from a vase or other decorative vessel. Opaque white metal. D: 65mm. Not closely datable.



5 DISCUSSION

5.1 Interpretation

- 5.1.1 The fact that the loess (103) appeared to survive *in-situ* would suggest that truncation of the post-glacial subsoil and underlying gravel in this location is primarily from the structures associated with the construction of 7-11 St John's Street in the 19th century. This is discussed further below.
- 5.1.2 The date and function of possible pit 109 is unclear, as is that of the possible linear feature (104). The composition of the fill (105) of the latter was predominantly re-deposited loess, which is characteristic of pre-historic and late Saxon features excavated elsewhere within the city. Given the proximity of the Bronze Age barrow ditches excavated at the Sackler library site, it is feasible that this feature represents a ring ditch. However, the steep sides of the feature would indicate that little erosion of the edges has occurred, which would suggest that it had not been open for any significant amount of time. Additionally, no dating evidence was recovered and the shape of the feature in plan was uncertain, and consequently this interpretation is necessarily tentative.
- 5.1.3 The survival of the buried soil overlying the loess would also indicate a lack of truncation prior to the construction of the existing properties. This would be consistent with the location of the site within the grounds of Beaumont Palace (subsequently the White Friars) until the development of this area in the first half of the 19th century (Fig. 4 shows the approximate location of St John's Street on a late 17th century plan of the city).
- 5.1.4 The stone-lined cess pit is almost certainly contemporary with the construction of the existing buildings and appears to have been backfilled in the latter part of the 19th century. Given the location of this feature to the rear of the property, and the date of the backfill - it is likely that this structure represents a cess pit which has become redundant following the introduction of mains sewerage to the city in the late 19th century (possibly represented by the ceramic drains to the rear of Number 7), as also seen in earlier excavations to the south.
- 5.1.5 It is possible that the feature beneath the floorboards in the extension to the rear of Number 9 represents a light-well to the rear of the original property, which has become redundant following the construction of the extension.

**APPENDIX A. TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY**

| 7-11 St John's Street | | | | | |
|------------------------------|-------------|------------------|------------------|--|--|
| Contexts | | | | | |
| Context no | Type | Width (m) | Depth (m) | Comment | Soil Description |
| 101 | Deposit | - | | Modern landscaping deposit | Sand and gravel with building debris throughout |
| 102 | Deposit | - | | Buried topsoil | Very dark brown silty sand with occasional small stones and pieces of charcoal |
| 103 | Deposit | - | | Loess | Reddish brown silty sand |
| 104 | Cut | - | | Possible linear feature | |
| 105 | Fill | - | | Fill of possible linear feature | Mixed greyish brown silt sand and reddish brown silty sand |
| 106 | Layer | - | | Natural | Sand and gravel |
| 107 | Structure | - | | Brick wall of Number 11 | |
| 108 | Structure | - | | Limestone and Mortar foundation of Number 11 | |
| 109 | Cut | - | | Possible pit | |
| 110 | Fill | - | | Fill of possible pit | Greyish brown silty sand |
| 111 | Cut | - | | Bioturbation | |
| 112 | Structure | - | | Brick structure to rear of Number 11 (partly demolished) | |
| 113 | Structure | - | | Stone-lined ?cess pit | |
| 114 | Fill | - | | Backfill of stone-lined ? cess pit | Mixed and loose silty clay with pottery and glass throughout |

APPENDIX B. FINDS TABLES

Pottery catalogue

| Context | Cat No | Fabric | Spot-date | No. | Weight | Comments |
|---------|--------|--------|------------|-----|--------|--|
| 114 | 1 | REFW | c1850-1900 | 2 | 203 | Complete cylindrical paste/ointment pot and fitting pot lid in refined white earthenware (REFW). Impressed mark under base '1 1/2 OZ' Recessed rim (to take lid). Footring base with ext pad. Max diam base 77mm (lid ditto). Base height 33mm. Height base + lid 45mm. Lid slightly domed |
| 114 | 2 | REFW | c1850-1900 | 1 | 229 | Complete cylindrical paste/ointment pot base (as Cat No.1) made for fitting lid (missing) in refined white earthenware (REFW). Impressed mark under base 'MAW/4' (probably Maw's tilemakers of Shropshire). Max diam base 87mm. Base height 48mm (See Cat no 7 = possible lid of this vessel?) |
| 114 | 3 | REFW | c1850-1900 | 1 | 79 | Complete cylindrical paste/ointment pot base (as Cat No.1) made for fitting lid (missing) in refined white earthenware (REFW). Impressed mark under base 'MAW/1' Max diam base 65mm. Base height 29mm |
| 114 | 4 | TPW | c1850-1900 | 1 | 36 | Rim from globular jug in blue transfer-printed ware (TPW). Short cylindrical neck, plain upright rim (diam 100mm). Body with traces of European landscape dec with trees. Neck with running scroll of vine leaves - also on inside on neck, Prob Mid 19C |
| 114 | 5 | REFW | c1850-1900 | 2 | 304 | Complete cylindrical paste/ointment pot and fitting pot lid (as Cat No. 1) in refined white earthenware (REFW). Unmarked. Footring base with ext pad. Max diam base 92mm (lid ditto). Base height 38mm. Height base + lid 52mm |
| 114 | 6 | REFW | c1850-1900 | 1 | 434 | Complete cylindrical preserve jar (REFW). Plain. Plain upright rim with deep groove under (creating bead rim). Recessed base. Rim diam 89mm. Height 92mm. Made in mould/former |
| 114 | 7 | REFW | c1850-1900 | 1 | 145 | Complete pot lid (as in Cat. 1). REFW. Plain. Diam 92mm. Height 22mm (might be the lid from Cat no 2?) |
| 114 | 8 | TPW | c1850-1900 | 1 | 83 | Moulded spout/pouring lip from very |



| Context | Cat No | Fabric | Spot-date | No. | Weight | Comments |
|---------|--------|-----------|------------|-----|--------|--|
| | | | | | | large jug/pitcher in transfer-printed ware (TPW). Grey-green transfer dec int & ext - floral with ?peony flowers & leave, fine honeycomb-pattern background. Prob Mid 19C |
| 114 | 9 | TPW | c1850-1900 | 1 | 202 | Near-complete small vase in moulded TPW. Elaborate shape & decoration. Overall baluster shape with circular pedestal base above which the base splay & body are fluted and hexagonal in cross-section. Rim missing. Bases of handles survive on shoulder - lion-headed & gilded. Fussy Satsuma-style transfer dec with scene of bonsai-style flowering shrub in tripod pot - faint orange paint filler & much gilding. Dec in white baroque-style panels - also on base edge - with dark cobalt blue surround over most of vessel. Chinese-style square seal mark underside in blue transfer - probably made-up but possibly copied? Max Ht 150mm+, base diam 66mm |
| 114 | 10 | ENGS BRST | c1850-1900 | 1 | 209 | Complete slender cylindrical ink bottle in cream stoneware with an off-white opaque Bristol-style glaze (ENGS BRST) all over int & ext but not under base. Carinated concave shoulder with narrow neck with small cordon & pulley-shaped rim with spout/pouring lip. Base/body diam 54mm, rim diam (incl spout) 36mm, height 140mm. Plain unmarked |
| 114 | 11 | ENGS BRST | c1850-1900 | 1 | 469 | Complete slender cylindrical ink bottle in cream stoneware (as Cat no 10) with a clear Bristol-style glaze (ENGS BRST) all over int & ext but only partly under base. Carinated concave shoulder with narrow neck with small cordon & pulley-shaped rim with spout/pouring lip. Base/body diam 68mm, rim diam (incl spout) 37mm, height 165mm. Plain unmarked |
| 114 | 12 | ENGS | c1850-1900 | 1 | 257 | Complete cylindrical ink bottle in light brown salt-glazed stoneware with pale grey fabric (ENGS). Carinated concave shoulder. Narrow neck with collared rim. Groove above carination. Base slightly bevelled. Glaze all over ext & underside. Plain unmarked. Base/body diam 65mm, rim diam 30mm, height 115mm |



| Context | Cat No | Fabric | Spot-date | No. | Weight | Comments |
|---------|--------|--------|------------|-----|--------|--|
| 114 | 13 | ENGS | c1850-1900 | 1 | 215 | Complete cylindrical ink bottle in darker brown salt-glazed stoneware with pale grey fabric (ENGS). (as Cat No. 12 but smaller). Carinated concave shoulder. Narrow neck with collared rim. Groove above carination. Base slightly bevelled. Glaze allover ext & underside. Plain unmarked. Base/body diam 60mm, rim diam 28mm, height 107mm |
| 114 | 14 | ENGS | c1850-1900 | 1 | 135 | Complete small squat cylindrical ink bottle in brown salt-glazed stoneware with pale grey fabric (ENGS). Glazed allover ext/under. Plain unmarked. Carinated straight shoulder with small bead rim on v short vertical neck. Base/body diam 57mm, rim diam 22mm, height 60mm |
| TOTAL | | | | 16 | 3000 | |



APPENDIX C. BIBLIOGRAPHY AND REFERENCES

- Oxford Archaeology 1992 Fieldwork Manual, (Ed. D Wilkinson, first edition, August 1992)
- Oxford Archaeology 2000 OA Environmental Sampling Guidelines and Instruction, Manual.
- Oxford Archaeology 2013 *7-11 St John Street, Oxford*
Written Scheme of Investigation for a Watching Brief
- LAARC 2007 Post 1992 Museum of London code expansions: Post-Roman pottery.

http://www.museumoflondonarchaeology.org.uk/NR/rdonlyres/F0118AAF-EF24-4228-A07A-39F89E6F092E/0/post92mol_post_roman.pdf



APPENDIX D. SUMMARY OF SITE DETAILS

Site name: 7-11 St John Street, Oxford

Site code: OXSTJO14

Grid reference: SP 510 066

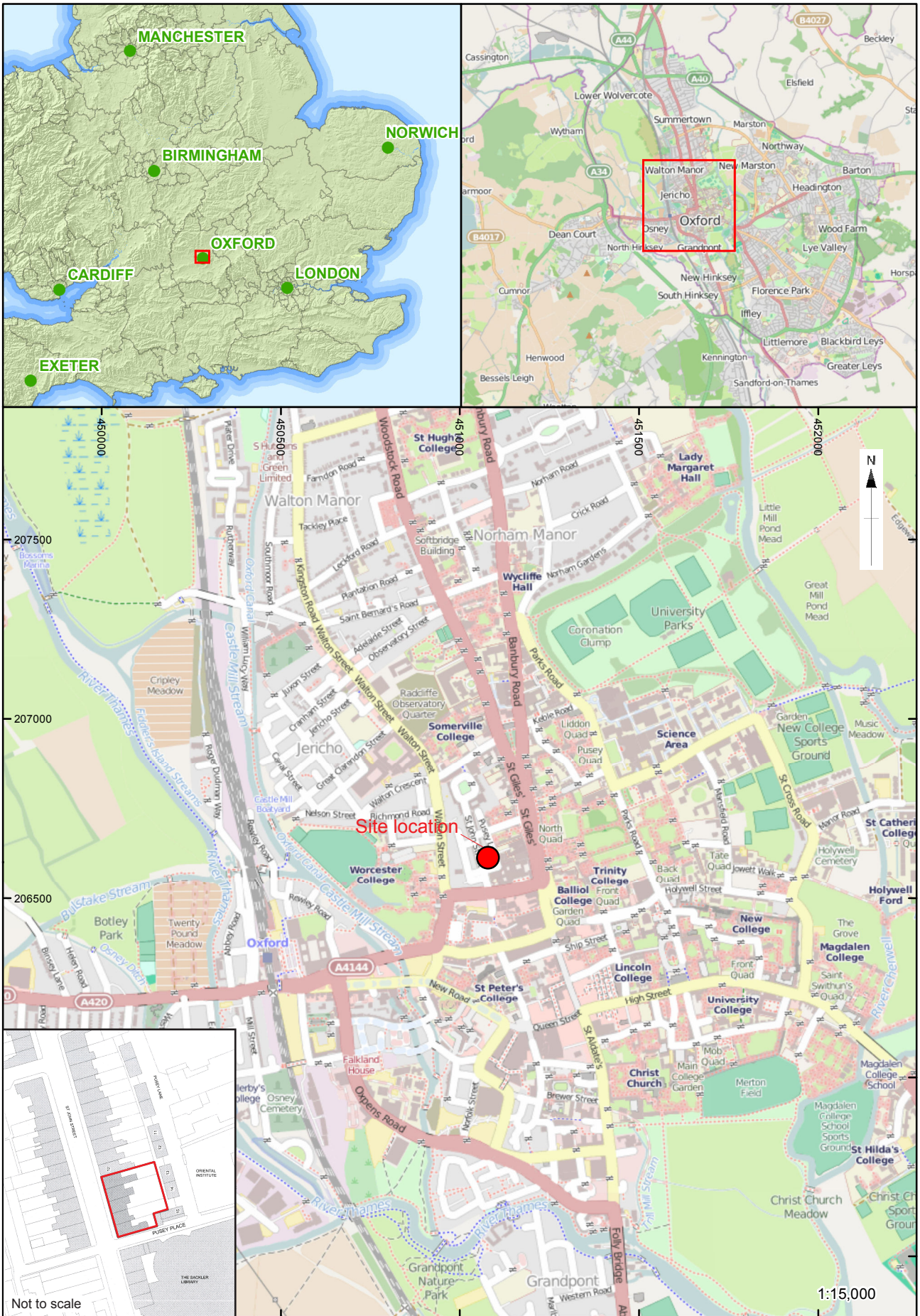
Type: Watching Brief

Date and duration: July-August 2014

Summary of results: Between July and August 2014, Oxford Archaeology (OA) undertook an archaeological watching brief at 7-11 St John Street, Oxford (SP 510 066). The watching brief revealed the sand and gravel of the second (Summertown-Radley) gravel terrace which was overlain by a post-glacial loessic subsoil. The subsoil and gravel had been truncated by a steep-sided feature which was only partially revealed within the trench for a new light-well to the rear of number 11. The composition of the fill was predominantly re-deposited loess, which is characteristic of pre-historic and late Saxon features excavated elsewhere within the city. A number of Bronze Age ring ditches have been excavated in the immediate vicinity of the site, and it is feasible that this feature represents one such. However, no dating evidence was recovered and the shape of the feature in plan was uncertain. Additionally, a possible pit – also undated – was revealed within the same trench.

The loess and the fills of the features were overlain by a homogeneous, humic deposit which is likely to represent a buried topsoil. This deposit and the fill of the steep-sided feature had been truncated by a stone-lined, square-cut pit, the fills of which produced a large quantity of mid-late 19th century artefactual material. It is likely that this represents a stone-lined cess pit to the rear of number 11, which was backfilled in the 1870s following the introduction of mains sewerage into the city.

Location of archive: The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES, and will be deposited with the Oxfordshire County Museum in due course, under the following accession number: OXCMS: 2014.34

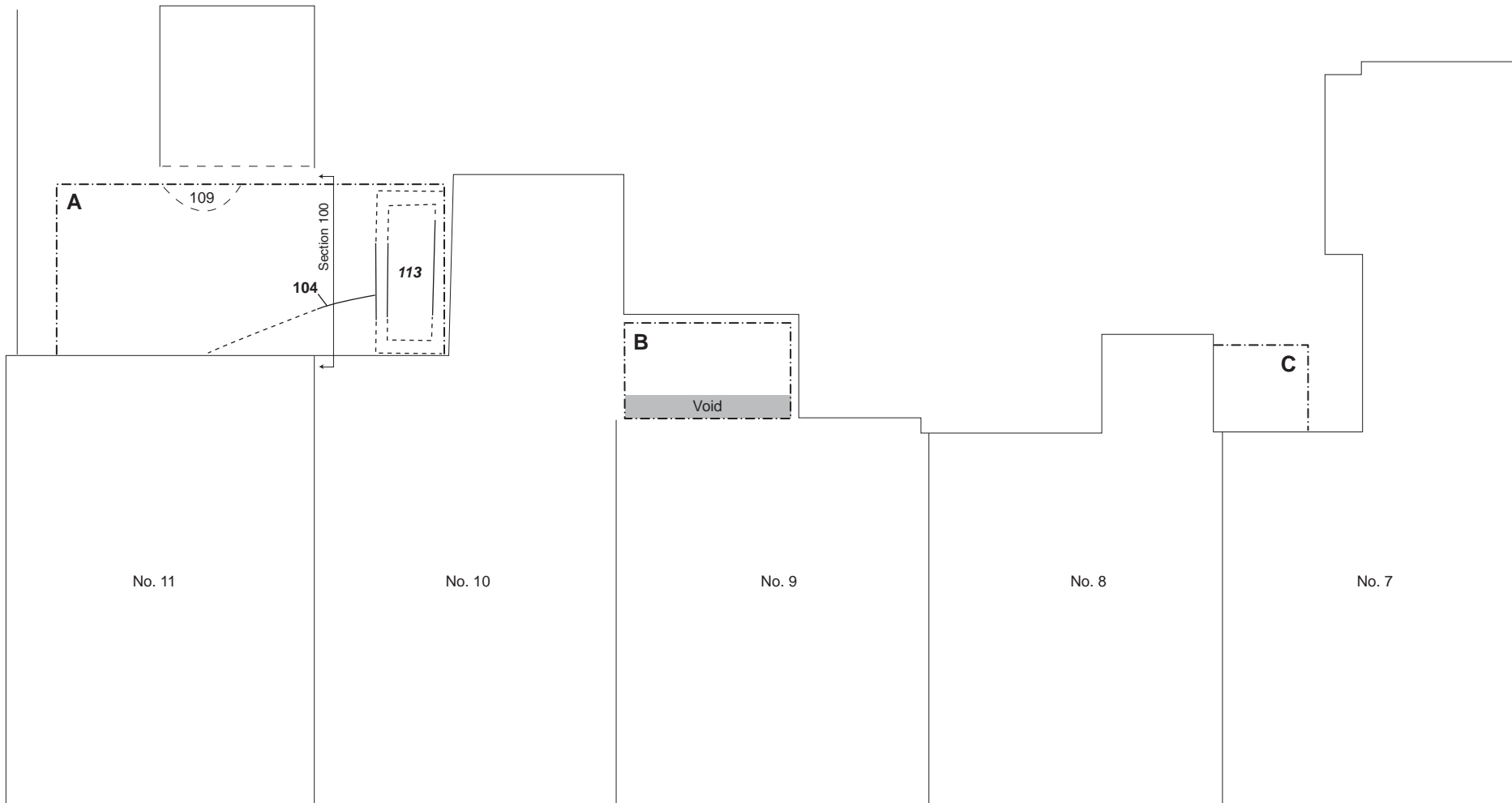


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Figure 1: Site location

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- A** Trench for new basement entrance to rear of no. 11
- B** Floor reductions within extension to no. 9
- C** Trench for light-well to rear of no. 7
-  Void between brick wall and footing of back wall of no. 9

Figure 2: Trench location

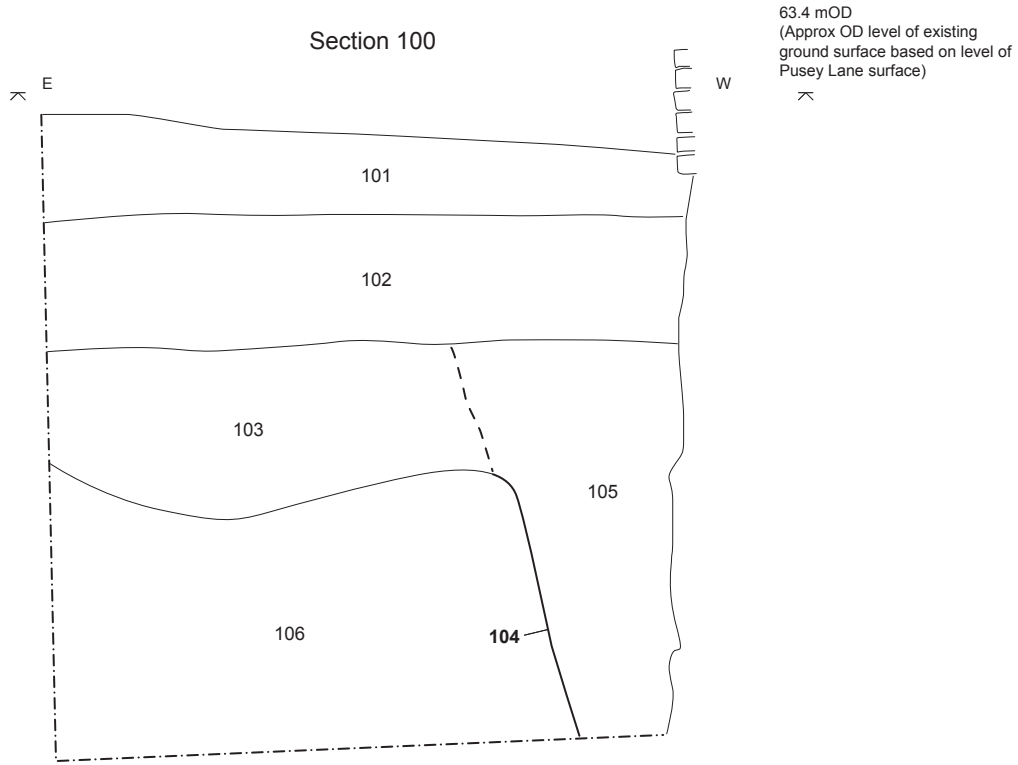


Figure 3: Section 100

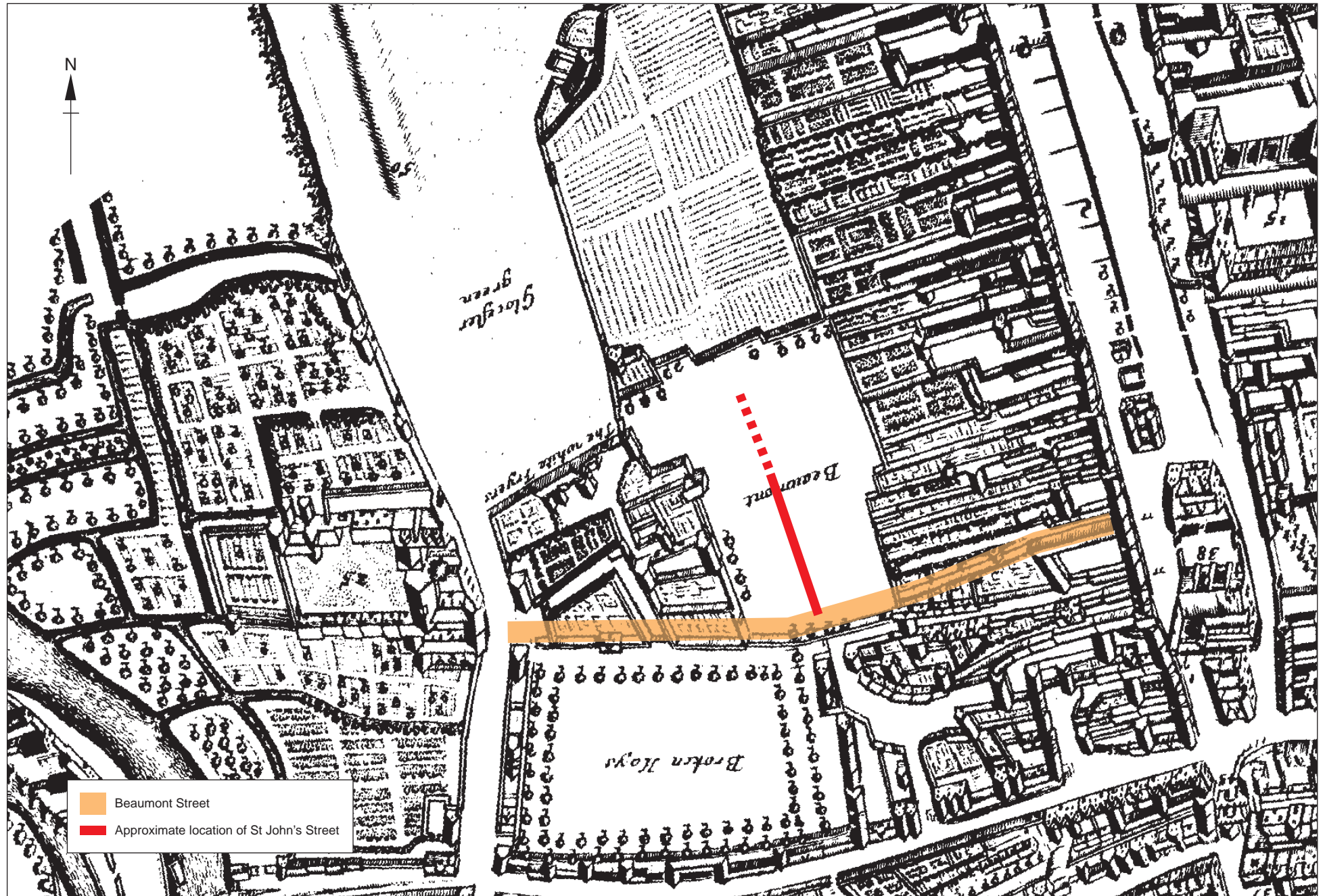


Figure 4: Location of St John's Street on Logan Map of 1675



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